1st March 1934]

Land Revenue Administration

Damage by floods caused to the pisanam crops in Srivaikuntam taluk.

* 724 *Q.*—Mr. M. DEVADASAN: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to resolution No. IV of the Tinnevelly District Conference, dated 21st January 1934, about the pisanam crops in four villages in Srivaikuntam taluk, having been washed away by floods; and

(*b*) whether the Government have passed any and, if so, what orders in regard to these four villages?

A.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) No, as no special orders of Government are necessary; in the Board's standing orders it is within the power of the district officers to grant remission to ryots applying for it on the ground that their crops have been washed away.

Agriculture

Importation of rice from foreign countries.

* 725 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. RANGASWAMI REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that imports of rice into the Madras Presidency from Japan, Indo-China and Siam have considerably increased during the past five years; and

(*b*) whether there are any measures under proposal to raise the prices of the local products?

A.—(*a*) The Government are aware that rice is imported into the Presidency from these countries and that there has been an increase in the last three years.

(*b*) The measures taken by Government to facilitate the freer movement of rice have been referred to by the hon. Revenue Member in his speech on the debate on the resolution for land revenue remission on 31st January 1934.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask what investigations the Government have made to find out the extent of foreign rice imported into Madras?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" No investigations have been carried out."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask whether the Government do not think it necessary to carry out investigations in this respect?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" The customs authorities will give us the information required."